TALES OF TERROR
TALES OF HORROR
10¢
NO 7
The BEAST From The DEEP!

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JETTA
MYSTERY COMICS
FANTASTIC TALES
COSMO CAT
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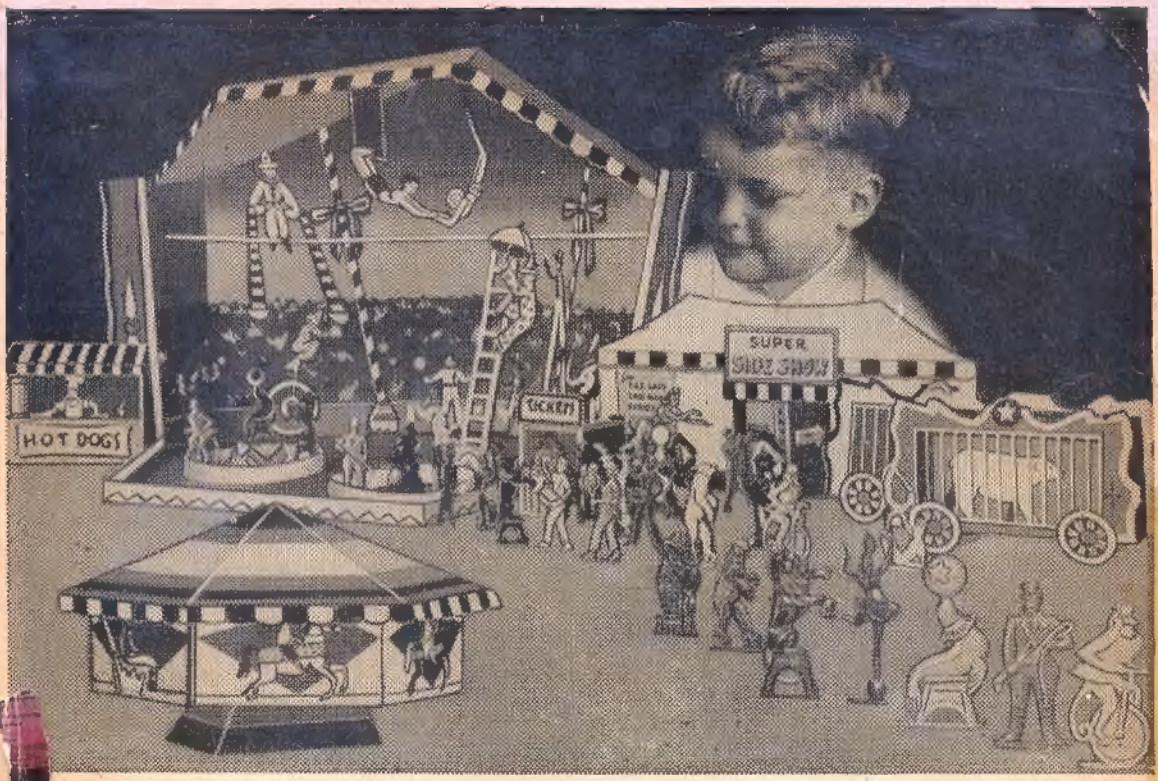

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THE MAN WHO TRICKED THE DEVIL!
A TALE OF HORROR
"LOTS OF RUMORS BEEN FLOATING AROUND LATELY ABOUT A MAN WHO TRICKED ME... I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO GET THE INSIDE-DOPE... PULL YOUR CHAIRS CLOSER... MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE... NO NEED TO SHIVER NOW. THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHIVERING AFTER I'VE FINISHED MY STORY..."
ANYBODY WHO CAN READ A HEADLINE HAS HEAR OF JEFF HAGSTONE... THE WORLD'S GREATEST LAWYER. WELL... MY STORY STARTS IN HAGSTONE'S DARKENED STUDY...
JEFF... YOU'RE CRAZY! I WARN YOU... DON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!
HE'S RIGHT, JEFF! YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT.. FAME, WEALTH, A JUDGESHIP FOR THE ASKING! WHY SHOULD YOU RISK YOUR SOUL...?
BECAUSE, GENTLEMEN, I AM THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WITH THE PRECISE COMBINATION OF BRAINS AND BACKGROUND THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO TRICK THE DEVIL!

JEFF, IT CAN'T BE DONE! THE DEVIL NEVER MAKES GOOD ON HIS BARGAINS ...I REMEMBER TED MAXWELL? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY, HAVE YOU? I KNOW WHY? BECAUSE HE TRIED TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE DEVIL!
"TED WAS OBSESSED ALL HIS LIFE WITH FINDING A WOMAN OF FLAWLESS BEAUTY. HE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, SPENT MILLIONS...AT LAST IN DESPERATION, HE CALLED ON THE DEVIL..."
AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. MAXWELL!
I-I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL WANT IN EXCHANGE ...BUT I AM WILLING! TAKE MY SOUL... BUT GIVE ME THE DAUGHTER OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE TODAY!
THAT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED! JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE...IN BLOOD-OF COURSE
"...THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY SHROUDED IN DARKNESS/ BUT THEN... IN A CORNER...SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE INSIDE A SWIRLING MIST... APPEARED A GIRL..."
ALL MY LIFE...I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE FOR THIS...!
"...TED TIP-TOED FORWARD. HIS FINGERS TREMBLED AS HE CAREFULLY LIFTED THE VEIL..."
"AIEEEE! A LEPER!!"
SHE IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU ASK FOR, MR. MAXWELL... THE DAUGHTER OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD! AND YOU TOUCHED HER...HEH...HEH!

VERY INTERESTING...BUT WHAT CHANCE DID A HEAD-IN-THE-CLOUDS DILLETANTE UNDERSTANDWELL HAVE WITH THE DEVIL? I HAVE THE EQUIPMENT! I CAN HANDLE HIM!
WHAT ABOUT BULOFF, THE LITMANIAN DIPLOMAT? HE WAS KNOWN AS THE HARDEST BARGAINER IN THE WORLD! DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
TELL HIM THE STORY, JEFF MUST BE DISSUADED!

POWER WAS WHAT BULOFF WANTED! SO...HE WAS EAGER TO EXCHANGE HIS SOUL FOR THE PREMIERSHIP OF LITMANIA..."
JUST SIGN HERE...IN BLOOD, MR. BULOFF...

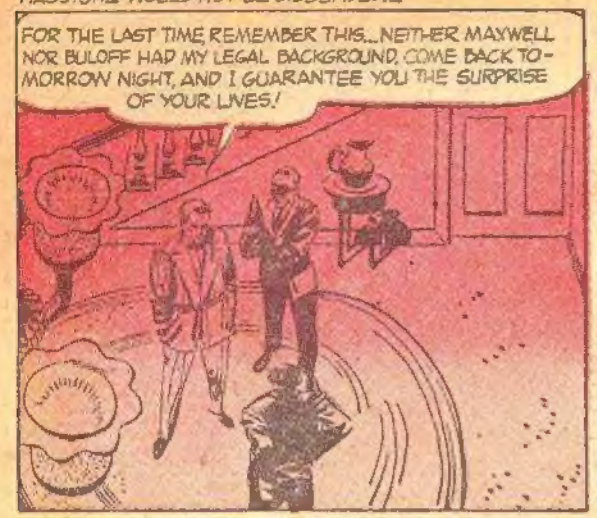
THE BLOOD WAS STILL WET ON THE CONTRACT WHEN BULOFF HEARD BLACK WINDS RUSHING INSIDE HIS HEAD...AND THE ROOM BEGAN TO TILT CRAZILY...."

"WHEN BULOFF CAME TO..."
THE PREMIER'S OFFICE... THIS MEDAL PINNED TO MY JACKET...I'M THE PREMIER OF LITMANIA!

TODAY I WILL ISSUE MY FIRST PROCLAMATION. EVERY YEAR HENCEFORTH THIS DAY SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS BULOFF DAY, AND...
WHO DARE ENTER THE PREMIER'S PRIVATE OFFICE WITHOUT BEING ANNOUNCED...?

"THE DEVIL HAD CHEATED AGAIN! FOR BULOFF'S UNANNOUNCED VISITOR WAS A POLITICAL ASSASSIN, AND SO BULOFF'S PREMIERSHIP LASTED EXACTLY FORTY-TWO SECONDS..."
DESPOT, TYRANT ...DIE!
AAAAARGHH!!
CRASH!

TWO PRETTY GRIM TALES OF ME AT MY BEST, EH...? BUT JEFF HAGSTONE WOULD NOT BE DISSUADED...

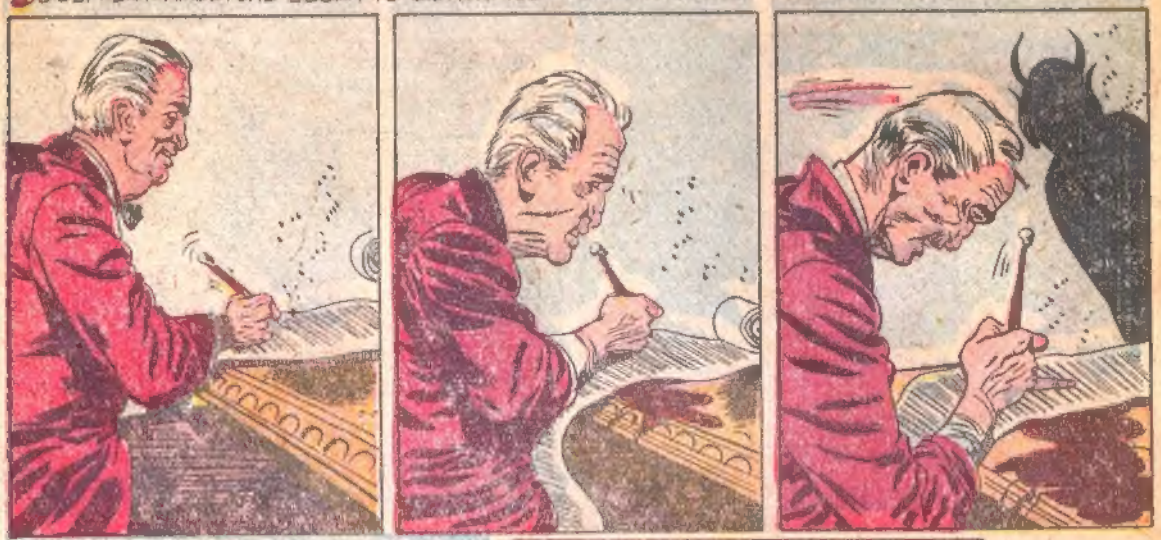


WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS STUDY AND PUT THROUGH A CALL FOR ME...

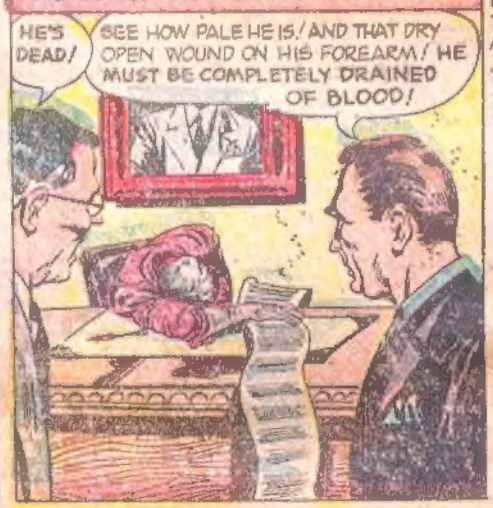
HAGSTONE WAS BRUSQUE, BUSINESS-LIKE IN CLEAR LEGAL LANGUAGE, HE TOLD ME JUST WHAT HE WANTED...

AFTER I SKIMMED THROUGH THE FIRST FEW THOUSAND CLAUSES...

SO JEFFERY HAGSTONE BEGAN TO SIGN. IT TOOK ALMOST ALL NIGHT... AND LOTS OF BLOOD...



WHEN HIS FRIENDS CAME THE NEXT NIGHT, JEFF HAGSTONE KEPT HIS WORD. THEY GOT THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!

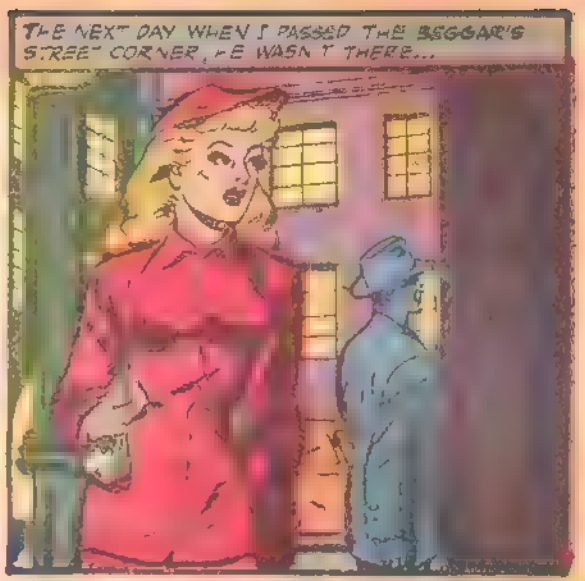


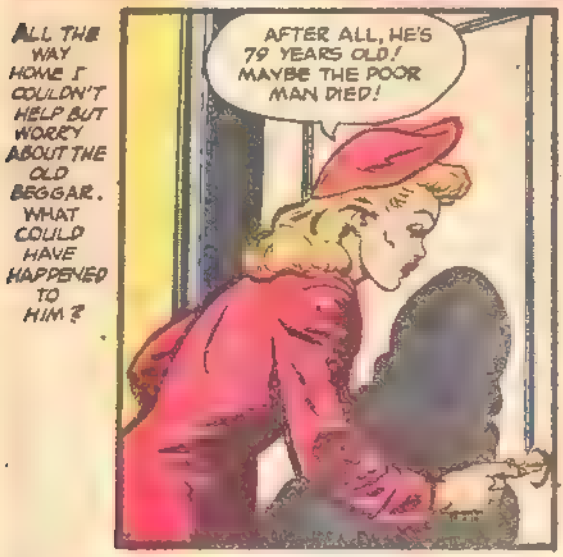
THAT'S THE STORY... ANYBODY ELSE WANTS TO TRY TO TRICK ME, HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH... STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR SOULS...!

THE END

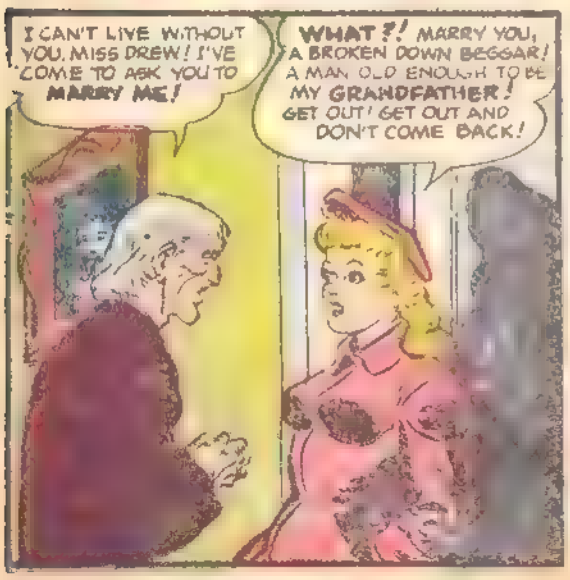
A TALE OF HORROR
DIE FOR THE BEGGAR
HE WAS A NICE OLD MAN, BUT LITTLE DID I KNOW WHAT WAS REALLY BEHIND HIS FRIENDLY SMILE. I SOON FOUND OUT, ALONG WITH COUNTLESS OTHER INNOCENT YOUNG GIRLS WHO HAD TO...
"DIE FOR THE BEGGAR!"
I LEFT WORK AT FIVE O'CLOCK, AND HE WAS THERE AGAIN AT HIS OLD STAND AND THAT DAY, JUST AS I DID FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS, I GREETED HIM.
GOOD EVENING, GEORGE, AND HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
FINE, MISS DREW... JUS' FINE!
HERE, GEORGE, GET YOURSELF SOME DINNER!
YOU'RE VERY KIND, MISS! I WON'T BE FORGETTING YOU FOR THIS!

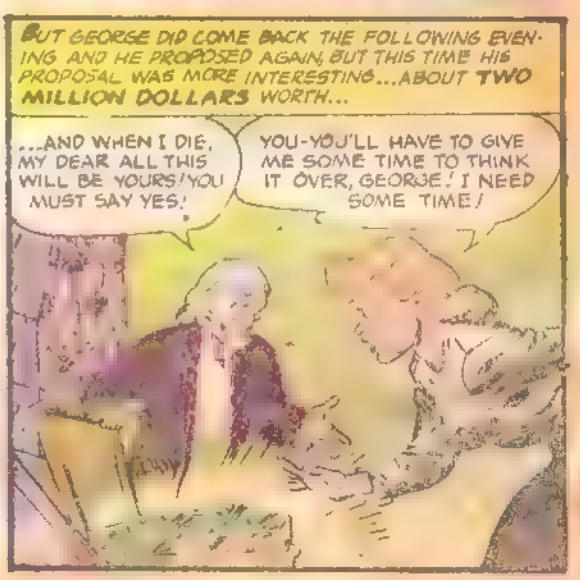
...I'T FORGET GEORGE BAXTER, THE OLD ...R. AND THAT NIGHT, AT A SMALL GATHERING ...MY FRIENDS, THE OLD MAN DOMINATED OUR CONVERSATION....
WHAT'S SO UNUSUAL ABOUT AN OLD BEGGAR, HARRIET?
AHA! MAYBE MY FIANCEE HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE HANDSOME OLD DEVIL!
BE SERIOUS, HENRY! I JUST...WELL, I JUST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!


THE NEXT DAY WHEN I PASSED THE BEGGAR'S STREET CORNER, HE WASN'T THERE...


ALL THE WAY HOME I COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT THE OLD BEGGAR. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?
AFTER ALL, HE'S 79 YEARS OLD! MAYBE THE POOR MAN DIED!

I WAS TOO TIRED TO THINK ANY MORE I TURNED THE LOCK, OPENED THE DOOR, AND...
GEORGE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU, MISS DREW! I'VE COME TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME!
WHAT?! MARRY YOU, A BROKEN DOWN BEGGAR! A MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY GRANDFATHER! GET OUT! GET OUT AND DON'T COME BACK!


BUT GEORGE DID COME BACK THE FOLLOWING EVENING AND HE PROPOSED AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME HIS PROPOSAL WAS MORE INTERESTING...ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS WORTH...
...AND WHEN I DIE, MY DEAR ALL THIS WILL BE YOURS! YOU MUST SAY YES!
YOU-YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER, GEORGE! I NEED SOME TIME!

I WAS ALL MIXED UP I NEEDED ADVICE A COUPLE OF MILLION DOLLARS WAS NOTHING TO THROW OUT OF THE WINDOW... EVEN IF I HAD TO MARRY THE THE OLD BEGGAR I WENT TO SEE HENRY...

I DON'T KNOW HARRIET! THERE MAY BE A CATCH THERE!

BUT THERE'S NO CATCH, HENRY! I CHECKED UP ON THE OLD BEGGAR! HE'S GOT AN ACCOUNT IN PRACTICALLY EVERY BANK IN NEW YORK!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! THAT'S A LOT OF DOUGH TO INHERIT WHEN YOUR DEAR, OLD "HUSBAND" DIES!

THEN WE'LL HAVE IT ALL, HENRY! HE COULDN'T LIVE MORE THAN [illegible] YEARS AND IF WE'RE IMPATIENT WE CAN GET RID OF HIM VERY EASILY!

I GAVE GEORGE MY ANSWER, AND BEFORE OUR WEDDING I MADE HIM SIGN OVER HIS FORTUNE TO ME GEORGE DIDN'T OBJECT, BUT HE HAD A PAPER FOR ME TO SIGN...

HMMM! ACCORDING TO THIS PAPER I WON'T GO OUT WITH OTHER MEN AS LONG AS GEORGE IS ALIVE... I WILL CARE FOR HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE! DOESN'T HURT TO SIGN AND MAKE THE OLD BOY HAPPY.

AND SO WE WERE MARRIED. GEORGE TOOK ME TO HIS HOME... OUR HOME IT FILLED ME WITH HORROR SOMETHING TERRIBLE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN .. AND SOME HOW I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO GEORGE..

WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE, HARRIET DARLING! YOU'LL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO IT, I'M SURE.

YES, G-GEORGE, I'M SURE I WILL...

I HATED IT... I HATED EVERY MINUTE OF IT. MY NIGHTS WERE SPENT IN TEARS, REGRETTING THE DAY I EVER AGREED TO MARRY THE UGLY OLD BEGGAR. THEN ONE NIGHT, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. .

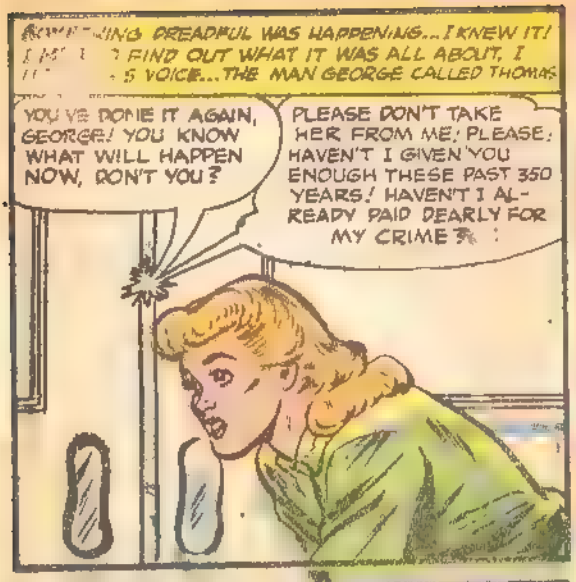
I WANT TO SEE GEORGE BAXTER! IS HE AT HOME?

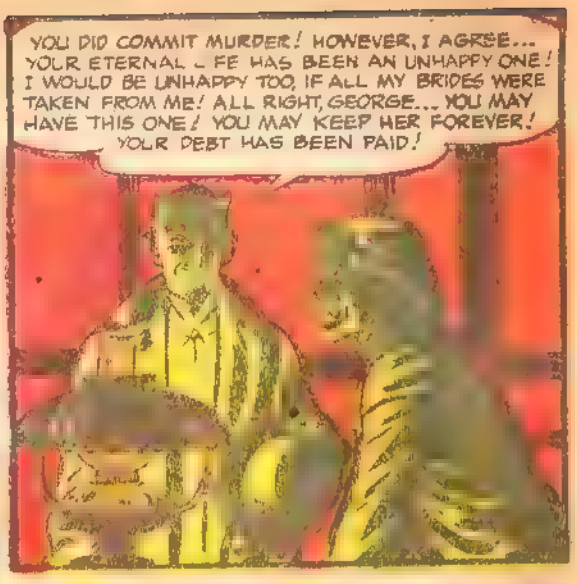
WHY YES! WON'T YOU COME IN?

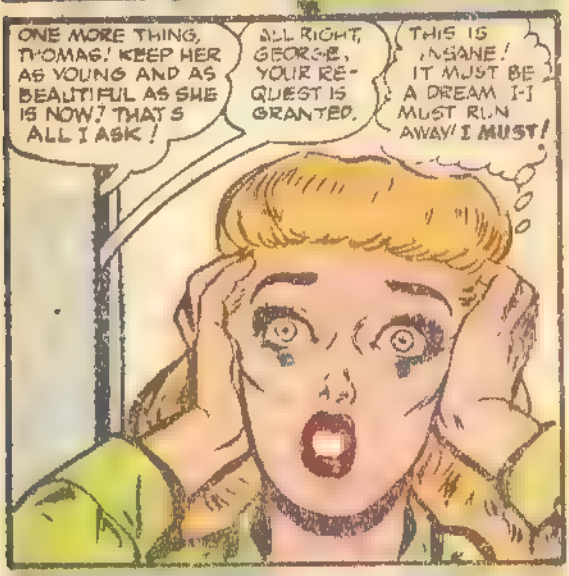
WHEN GEORGE SAW THE TALL STRANGER, HIS FACE TURNED PALE ALTHOUGH HE GREETED HIM CORDIALLY, I KNEW THAT GEORGE FEARED THIS STRANGE MAN THEY WENT INTO THE LIBRARY TOGETHER.....

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME THOMAS! COME! WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!

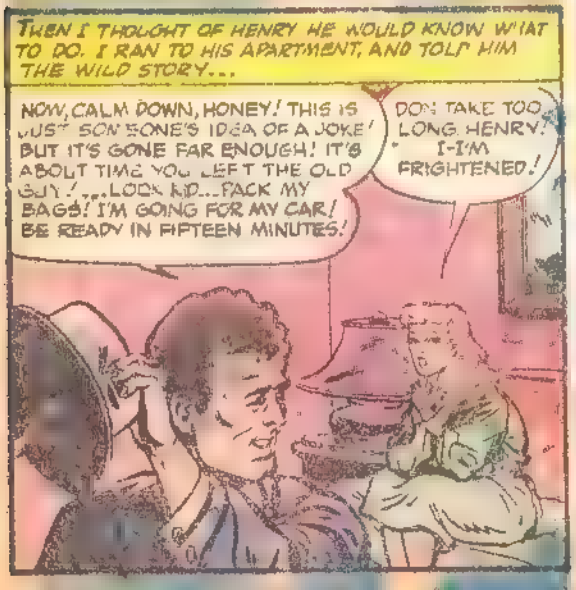
YES, GEORGE! WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!

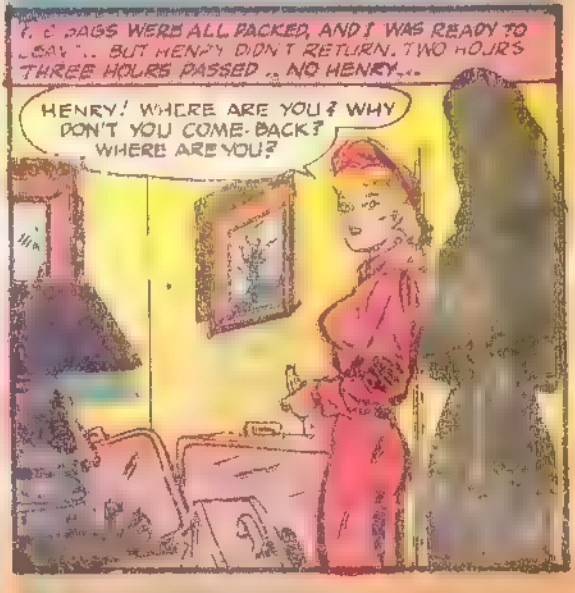

SOMETHING DREADFUL WAS HAPPENING...I KNEW IT! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT, I HEARD HIS VOICE...THE MAN GEORGE CALLED THOMAS
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, GEORGE! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW, DON'T YOU?
PLEASE DON'T TAKE HER FROM ME! PLEASE! HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU ENOUGH THESE PAST 350 YEARS! HAVEN'T I ALREADY PAID DEARLY FOR MY CRIME?


YOU DID COMMIT MURDER! HOWEVER, I AGREE... YOUR ETERNAL LIFE HAS BEEN AN UNHAPPY ONE! I WOULD BE UNHAPPY TOO, IF ALL MY BRIDES WERE TAKEN FROM ME! ALL RIGHT, GEORGE... YOU MAY HAVE THIS ONE! YOU MAY KEEP HER FOREVER! YOUR DEBT HAS BEEN PAID!


ONE MORE THING, THOMAS! KEEP HER AS YOUNG AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS SHE IS NOW! THAT'S ALL I ASK!
ALL RIGHT, GEORGE, YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED.
THIS IS INSANE! IT MUST BE A DREAM I-I MUST RUN AWAY! I MUST!

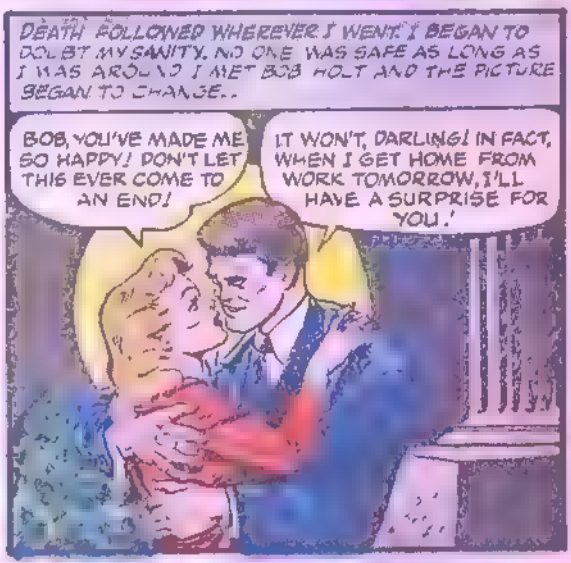
I HAD TO GET AWAY. I WAS BEWILDERED, FRIGHTENED
THIS COULDN'T BE POSSIBLE! THESE THINGS WON'T HAPPEN

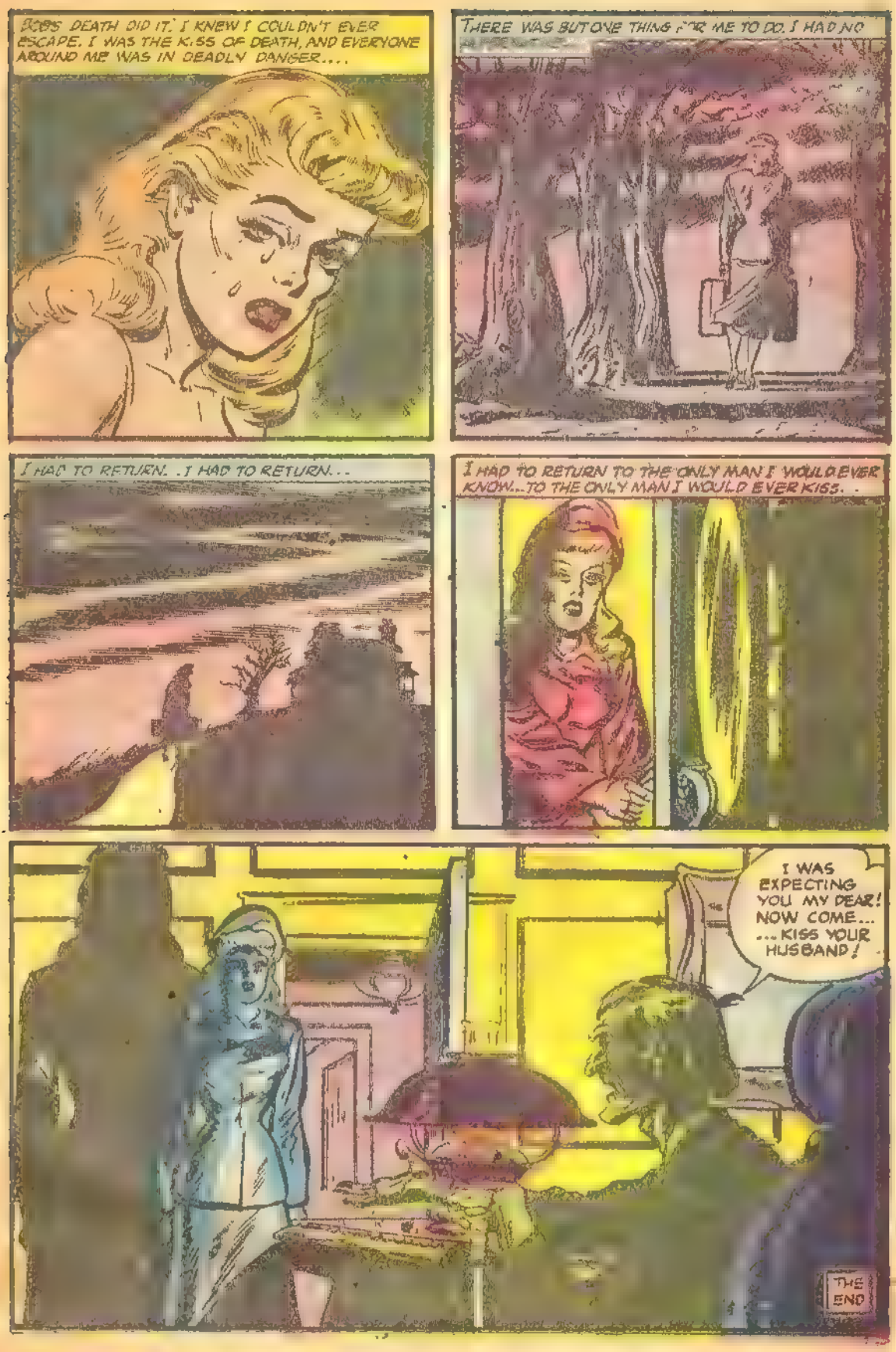

THEN I THOUGHT OF HENRY HE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO. I RAN TO HIS APARTMENT, AND TOLD HIM THE WILD STORY...
NOW, CALM DOWN, HONEY! THIS IS JUST SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE! BUT IT'S GONE FAR ENOUGH! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEFT THE OLD GUY!...LOOK KID...PACK MY BAGS! I'M GOING FOR MY CAR! BE READY IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, HENRY! I-I'M FRIGHTENED!


MY BAGS WERE ALL PACKED, AND I WAS READY TO LEAVE... BUT HENRY DIDN'T RETURN. TWO HOURS THREE HOURS PASSED .. NO HENRY...
HENRY! WHERE ARE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK? WHERE ARE YOU?

SICK WITH WORRY, I LEFT THE APARTMENT WHEN I REACHED THE STREET I SAW IT...
AHHH! NO! NO!
IT WAS HENRY'S CAR. I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH THE CROWD AND THERE HE WAS...CRUSHED BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION!
I RAN AWAY. I HAD TO BE WITH SOMEONE... I HAD TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I WAS TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED.
I'LL GO SEE... GRACE...SHE'LL KNOW... WHAT TO DO...SHE'LL HELP ME...SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND.
WHEN I ARRIVED AT GRACE'S HOME SHE WAS DEAD
WE-WE TRIED TO CONTACT YOU HARRIET! WE...KNEW HOW FOND YOU WERE OF EACH OTHER...
THIS IS A BAD DREAM! WHEN WILL I AWAKE? WHEN WILL I AWAKE AND FORGET THIS NIGHTMARE?
GRACE'S DEATH WAS TOO MUCH TO TAKE. IT WAS FREE BEEN COINCIDENCE. BUT I DOUBTED IT. I LEFT NEW YORK WENT TO CHICAGO AND MET A RICH YOUNG MAN. PERHAPS MY LUCK WAS CHANGING, I THOUGHT...
WHERE SHALL WE GO TONIGHT, HARRIET? JUST NAME IT!
ANYWHERE WILL BE HEAVEN WITH YOU
HARRIET YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU. WHEN YOU MARRY ME?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL JERRY. SHOULD HE BELIEVE MY WEIRD STORY? WOULD HE BELIEVE THAT I WAS MARRIED TO A MAN 350 YEARS OLD? BUT THEN IT HAPPENED. THEY CAME IN WITH GUNS...



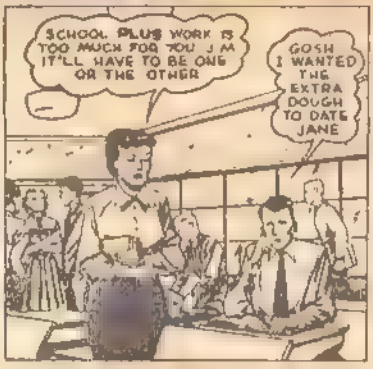

BOB'S DEATH DID IT. I KNEW I COULDN'T EVER ESCAPE. I WAS THE KISS OF DEATH, AND EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS IN DEADLY DANGER....
THERE WAS BUT ONE THING FOR ME TO DO. I HAD NO
I HAD TO RETURN. . I HAD TO RETURN. . .
I HAD TO RETURN TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER KNOW...TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER KISS. .
I WAS EXPECTING YOU MY DEAR! NOW COME... ...KISS YOUR HUSBAND!
THE END

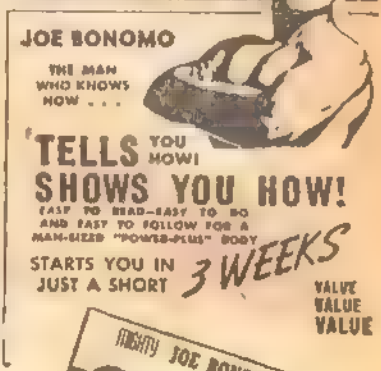
A TALE OF HORROR

THE BEAST FROM THE DEEP!

ACROSS THE SEA WENT THE CRY, LIKE THE WAIL OF A BEAST IN PAIN...
THE CRY WENT FAR... THE LONESOME CRY OF A MONSTER SICK AT HEART...
THE MOAN WENT WIDE... THE MOAN WENT DEEP...
THEN ONE NIGHT, THERE CAME AN ECHO...
????
ANSWERING! ONLY DEEPER THROATIER...
T-TH.....THROATIER?
...(GASP!)...
IT'S CLOSER NOW! HOW CAN AN ECHO GET CLOSER? AM I GOING MAD?!!

3 WEEKS $198 MADE "SAD SLIM JIM" HERE!





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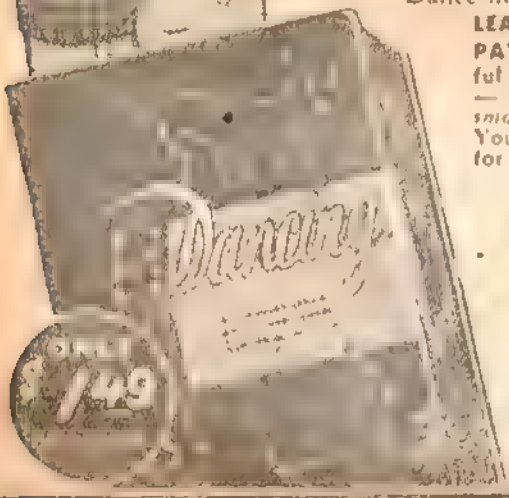

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LEARN THE FOX TROT, COUNTRY DANCES, RHUMBA, SAMBA, CALL SQUARE DANCES!

T-THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE! NOT A SHIP! NOT AN ECHO! HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT IT IS! I'LL TRY TO DIRECT THE BEAM!
N-NO. . NOTHING. T WAS MY IMAG.NATION ' A PASSING SHIP WITH A STRANGE, NEW FOG - HORN.. I'LL RETURN THE LAMP TO ITS CIRCUIT...
IT WAS MY IMAGINATION. THAT S IT. I'M GETTING OLD. MY MIND PLAYS TRICKS ON ME.
AGAIN THE FOGHORN SOUNDED. THIS TIME THERE WAS NO ECHO. THE BIG EYE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE GLEAMED EVILLY INTO THE DARK... LIKE THE PHOSPHORESCENT ORB OF SOME THIN-NECKED MONSTER LOOKING VAINLY FOR SOMETHING LOOKING EVERYWHERE... SCOURING THE SEAS .. IN VAIN... IN VAIN ..
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT BREAKFAST...
YOU WILL CALL ME AN OLD FOOL JUAN... BUT I SWEAR THAT ECHO WAS THAT OF A BEAST ANSWERING THE FOGHORN!
HA! HA! YOU ARE LIKE ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT MARINERS WHO BELIEVED IN SEA SERPENTS AND THE FLATNESS OF THE WORLD! THIS IS 1953, SIR... NOT COLUMBUS' AGE!
HAVE I NOT SAID SO MYSELF? YET SOMETHING NAMELESS FRIGHTENS ME JUAN. IT'S A PREMONITION. I FEAR THE COMING OF DARK. WHEN THE BIG EYE IN THE TOWER LIGHTS UP AGAIN, WHEN THE LIGHTHOUSE VOICE SPEAKS AGAIN TO THE WINDS OF THE NIGHT.
NONSENSE! YOU LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU! THE TIME OF SEA - MONSTERS IS GONE! THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR, I ASSURE YOU..
THAT NIGHT...
GOING UPSTAIRS FOR A LOOK AT YOUR SEA MONSTER?
HA! -A!
LAUGH ALL YOU PLEASE! THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER TO ME. I HAVE HEARD SEA NOISES FOR FIFTY YEARS. WHAT I HEARD LAST NIGHT WAS SOMETHING THAT SENDS A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE!

LET THEM MOCK ME! I AM OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS NOT KNOWN... THAT MANY SECRETS REMAIN DEAD SECRETS SCIENCE CAN NEVER EXPLAIN. HMMM... I'LL MOVE THE LIGHT AROUND..
GASP! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE ... IT'S SWIMMING ... LIKE A VESSEL WITHOUT RIGGING! I'LL FIX THE BEAM ON IT...
GASP
GASPS IT'S A M-MONSTER. IT'S ANSWERING THE FOGHORN. I'VE GOT T-TO TURN IT OFF!
T-THERE IT CAN'T FOLLOW ANYTHING NOW. NEITHER LIGHT NOR SOUND!
WHAT THE DEUCE IS GOING ON? YOU'VE TURNED OFF THE LIGHT! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, SIR?
NOT WITH ME, JUAN! LOOK THERE. YOU WILL SEE WHETHER IT'S ALL BEEN MY IMAGINATION!
ANYTHING
GOT TO KEEP
SHOWN HIM WHERE THE LIGHT IS
TURN IT OFF, QUICK!

T-TOO LATE! HE'S COMING FOR US! ROSA...HURRY! DOWN THE STAIRCASE!
I DIDN'T KNOW!... ...I DIDN'T THINK!... ...GASP!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BEAST! HE MUST HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR CENTURIES IN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN ...ALONE... NO COMPANIONS...NO SOUNDS!
THEN ONE NIGHT THE VIBRATIONS OF THE FOGHORN MUST'VE REACHED HIM! HE REMEMBERED THE VOICE, SUBCONSCIOUSLY... LIKE A MEMORY OF SOMETHING AGES AGO, SOMETHING LONG DEAD. HE TOOK THE FOGHORN'S VOICE FOR ANOTHER BEAST, CALLING TO HIM...
IN HIS STUPID MAD HE THOUGHT THE TOWER WAS THE NECK OF A BEAST!... WITH THE ISLAND FOR A BODY! LOOK! HE'S GOING TO EMBRACE THE TOWER!
WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! HE'LL SMASH IT TO BITS!...
"HE'S GOING MAD! THERE'S NO ANSWER FROM THE TOWER!"
HURRY! START THE BOAT!
NO WE CAN'T USE THE MOTOR! HE'LL HEAR THE SOUND AND GO FOR US! WE'VE GOT TO PADDLE AS NOISELESSLY AS POSSIBLE!...
WE DIDN'T LEAVE THE LIGHTHOUSE A SECOND TOO SOON!

HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY, JUAN! HE SEES US!
I-I DON'T KNOW... IT MAY BE THE ISLAND OF SAN NOBLE HE SEES! IT'S LIGHTS ARE TWINKLING IN THE DARK... THEY MAY HAVE ATTRACTED HIM!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S HEADED IN THAT DIRECTION! HE'S GONE BERSERK! HE SEES LIGHTS! HE TAKES THEM FOR EYES!
WHEN HE REACHES SAN NOBLE AND FINDS NO MONSTER THERE, HE'LL GO WILD. HE WILL TERRORIZE THE WHOLE ISLAND! HE'LL DESTROY HUMAN BEINGS BY THE HUNDREDS! AND WE CAN DO NOTHING....
OWWWOOO
WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED! THERE WAS A BATTLESHIP REPORTED NEARBY. WE HAVE A SMALL RADIO! IF WE CAN ONLY CONTACT THE SHIP IN TIME!...
NO! WE CAN NEVER BE IN TIME FOR SAN NOBLE. BUT THERE ARE OTHER ISLANDS! OTHER LIVES! RADIO THE WARSHIP! EVERY SECOND WE LOOSE MEANS MORE LIVES LOST!
GASP! WHO WOULD BELIEVE SUCH A THING COULD HAPPEN? YET IT IS HAPPENING! IT IS!
SHORTLY AFTER... AS THE BEHEMOTH REACHES SAN NOBLE...
OWO-
YIIIII!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE BEAST. IT LUMBERS ABOUT CRUSHING THIS WAY AND THAT, IN CONFUSED RAGE AND PAIN.
WWOO-
OWWWO!

HOURS LATER, IN THE STREETS OF TOWN, THE MONSTER SURFACES AND WHIRLS. HE SEES A GLEAM OF LIGHT FROM THE SEA. HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE

IT IS THE CALL OF A FRIEND. THAT VOICE! THE MONSTER JOYOUSLY RESPONDS...

AGAIN IT COMES THAT FAMILIAR VOICE... AGAIN THE GLEAM OF LIGHT WORKS AS A LURE FOR THE LONELY MONSTER...

YOU SEE? I WAS RIGHT! THE MONSTER TOOK OUR FOGHORN FOR THE VOICE OF ANOTHER BEAST! HE TOOK THE GLEAM OF YOUR SEARCHLIGHT FOR ANOTHER MONSTER. LOOK HOW EAGERLY HE SWIMS TOWARD US!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT EAGERNESS RIGHT NOW, MASON! FIRE AT WILL!

!!!EEE!

!!!AA!

HOLD YOUR FIRE! IT'S SINKING!

IT'S G-GOING DOWN! YOU KNOW... EVEN NOW...SEEING IT SINK..! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS THING HAPPENED... HOW COULD IT?

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. EXCEPT THAT I'M AFRAID... TERRIBLY AFRAID.

TWO MONTHS LATER WHEN A NEW LIGHTHOUSE WAS BUILT. WHEN A NEW BEAM PASSED OVER THE WATER... AND A NEW FOGHORN GROANED INTO THE NIGHT.

WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHER MONSTERS? OTHER SERPENTS TO HEAR THE CALL OF THE FOGHORN? WHAT IF THEY COME UP..?

I DON'T KNOW, JUAN. WE CAN WATCH THE SEA AND WAIT.... WAIT... WAIT...

THE END

SPARKS OF LIFE

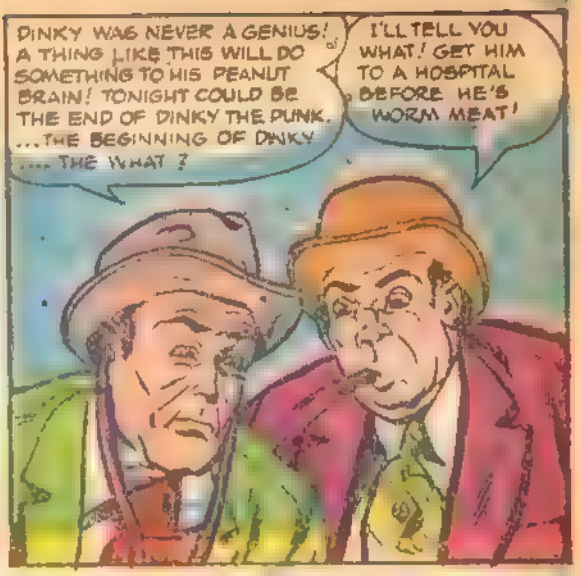
—By Chas. Kuhn

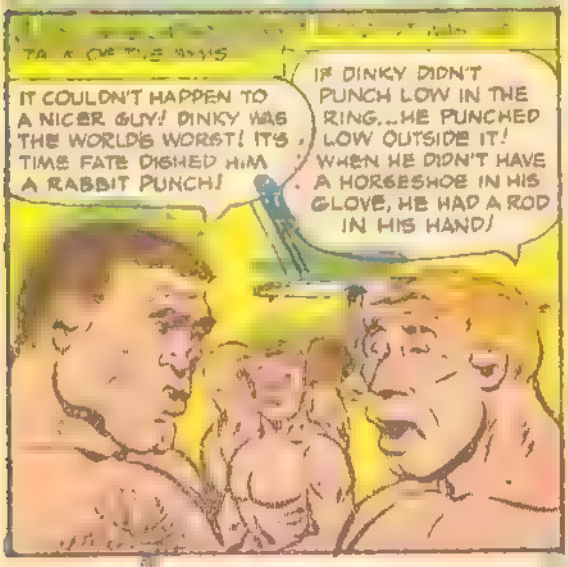
A TALE OF HORROR

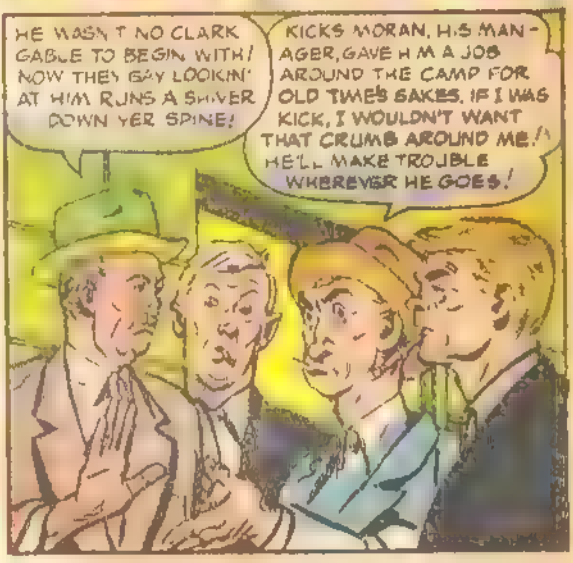
DINKY!

HORROR STALKS AT NIGHT! HORROR WITH FANGED JAWS AND WOLFISH CLAWS! HORROR LUSTING FOR MURDER ..LEERING FIENDISHLY AT GOODNESS AND MERCY! PUT A HUNDRED HORRORS TOGETHER AND THEY SPELL THE NAME OF AN ARCH-KILLER.... DINKY!

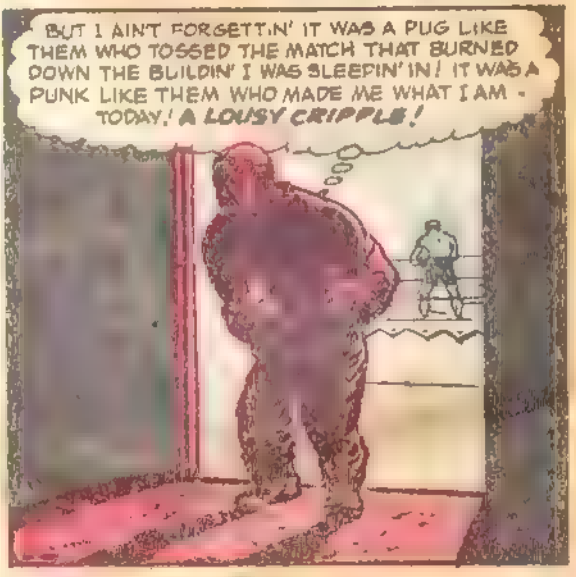
HOLY...! LOOK AT THAT SHACK GO UP! ANYBODY IN THAT BUILDING?
DINKY AN' JIM TRUMBULL AN' PETEY MORRIS! THEY'RE TRAPPED INSIDE!
WHAT LOUSY LUCK! DINKY WAS A COMER, I COULD'VE MADE HIM A CHAMP.
NUTS! DINKY IS A TANK SPECIALIST! WE ALWAYS FOUGHT DIRTY, THREW FIGHTS, BET ON THE OTHER GUY! DINKY... CHAMP? WHEN I GROW HAIR IN MY PALM!
LOOK! THE THIRD FLOOR WINDOW! THERE'S DINKY!
DINKY! D-DON'T JUMP! YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!
(GASP!)...I-I GOTTA JUMP! THE FLOOR'S CAUGHT FIRE! I-I CAN'T GET PAST THE DOOR! I'M TRAPPED!
WAIT, DINKY! YOU'LL BE KILLED!!...
(BOB!) I GOTTA JUMP! THE FIRE'S GETTIN' CLOSER!
I-I CAN'T STAY! I CAN'T...YYYYyEEE!
LOOK OUT! HE'S JUMPIN'!
AAIIIIIII!





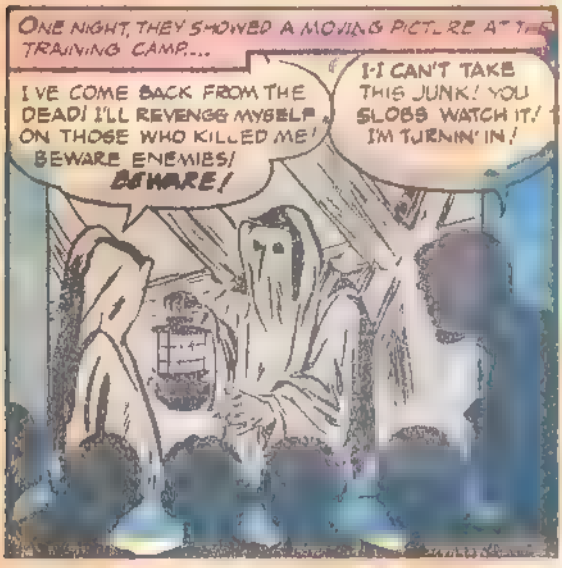


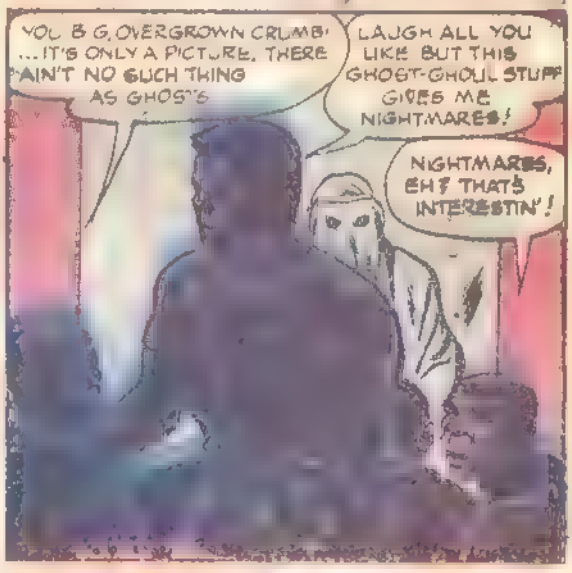
MONTHS PASSED. DINKY LEWIS CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. OUTWARDLY, HE WAS BAD TO LOOK AT, AS ALWAYS BUT THIS WAS NOTHING COMPARED WITH THE UGLINESS WITHIN HIM!

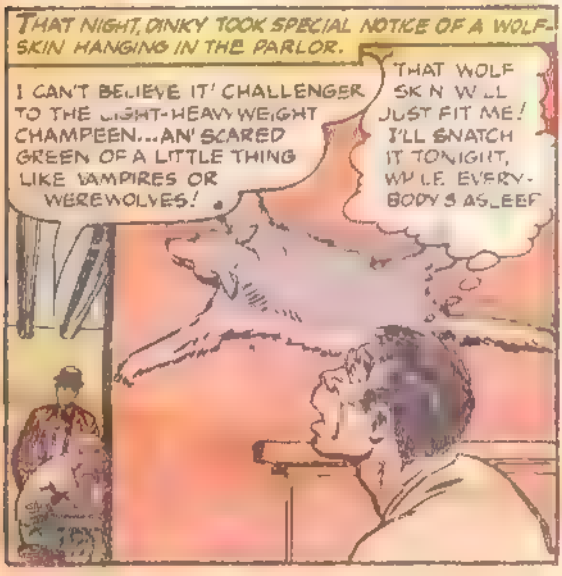


BUT I'LL GET EVEN! THEY WON'T WALK WHILE DINKY CRAWLS! THEY WON'T EARN DOLLARS WHILE DINKY EARNS PENNIES! I'LL MAKE THE SAME MESS OUTA THEM THEY MADE OUTA ME!

SOME DAY, I'LL SCARE THE LIVIN' GUTS OUTA THEM! I AIN'T EATIN' MY HEART OUT FOREVER! I'D RATHER EAT THEIRS!

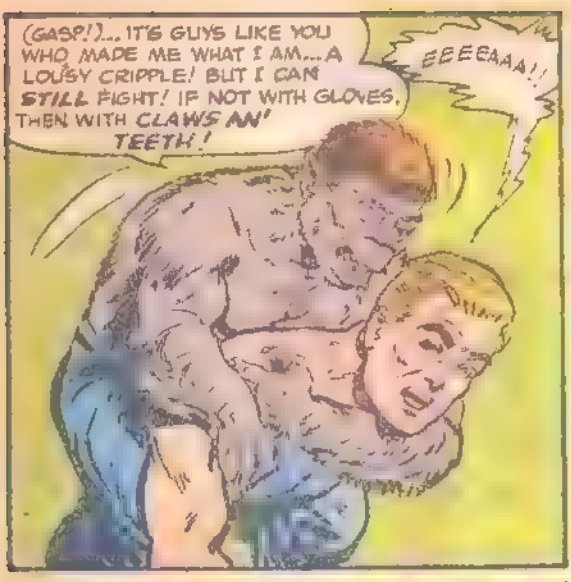

ONE NIGHT, THEY SHOWED A MOVING PICTURE AT THE TRAINING CAMP...
I'VE COME BACK FROM THE DEAD! I'LL REVENGE MYSELF ON THOSE WHO KILLED ME! BEWARE ENEMIES! BEWARE!
I-I CAN'T TAKE THIS JUNK! YOU SLOBS WATCH IT! I'M TURNIN' IN!

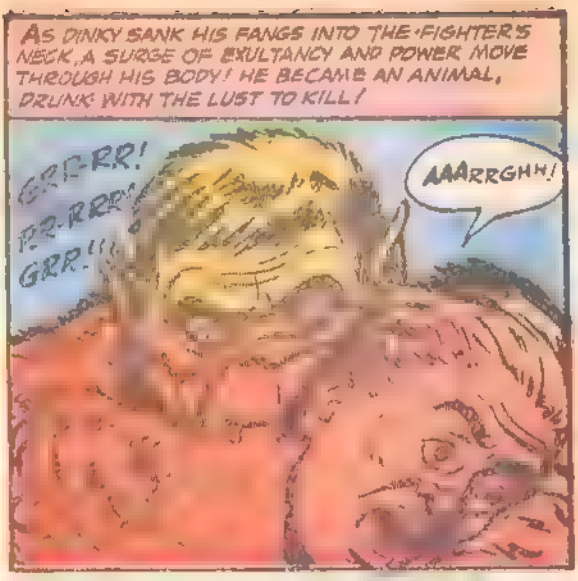

YOU B.G. OVERGROWN CRUMB! ...IT'S ONLY A PICTURE. THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS
LAUGH ALL YOU LIKE BUT THIS GHOST-GHOUL STUFF GIVES ME NIGHTMARES!
NIGHTMARES, EH? THAT'S INTERESTIN'!

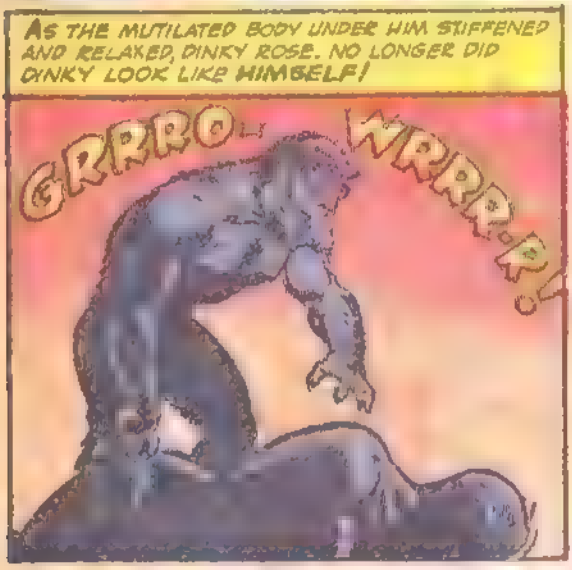

THAT NIGHT, DINKY TOOK SPECIAL NOTICE OF A WOLF-SKIN HANGING IN THE PARLOR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! CHALLENGER TO THE LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPEEN...AN' SCARED GREEN OF A LITTLE THING LIKE VAMPIRES OR WEREWOLVES!
THAT WOLF SKIN WILL JUST FIT ME! I'LL SNATCH IT TONIGHT, WHILE EVERYBODY'S ASLEEP

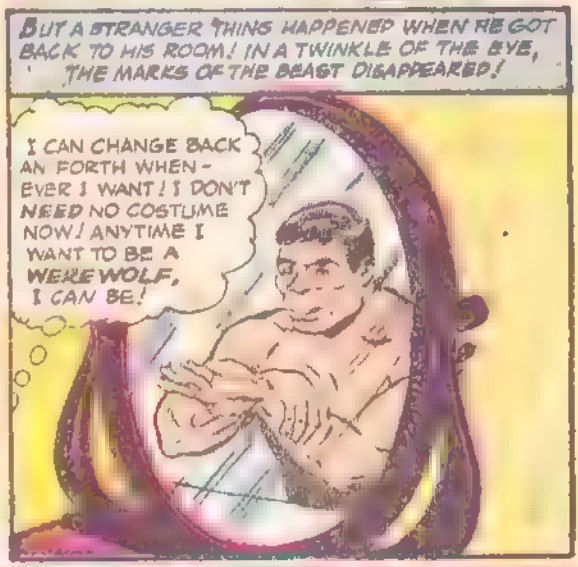
HOURS LATER IN THE CHALLENGERS ROOM...
I-I HEARD SOMETHIN SOMEBODY'S HERE... (GASP!) WHO'S THERE?
HE'LL DROP DEAD WHEN HE SEES THIS GET-UP.
GRR-RRRR-R! GGRR! G-GR!

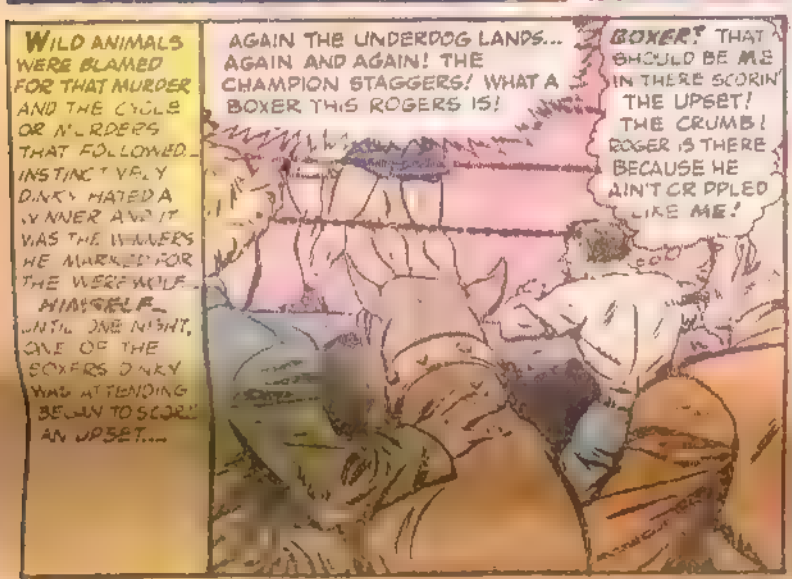
HELP! (GASP!) THERE'S A WEREWOLF IN MY ROOM!
A FEW MORE NIGHTS LIKE THIS AN' THE CRUMB WON'T BE ABLE TO BOX A FLY! HA! HA!
OUT LIKE A LIGHT! I KNEW IT! THE GUY'S BEEN A MENTAL CASE FOR WEEKS, CLAIMIN' HE CAN'T SLEEP... HE SEES WEREWOLVES IN HIS NIGHTMARES!
NOBODY WAS HAPPY BUT THE WINNER AND DINKY LEWIS, WHO WENT GLOATINGLY ABOUT HIS BUSINESS OF SCARING THE SKIN OFF EVERY BOXER WITHIN REACH...
THE SUPERSTITIOUS CRUMBS I'LL MAKE 'EM SCARED OF THEIR OWN SHADOWS! AIN'T NONE OF 'EM WHO CAN SEE ME COME AT 'EM IN THE DARK WITHOUT DROPPIN' DEAD!
SO DINKY LEWIS WENT ABOUT SYSTEMATICALLY RESTORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN HIS TWISTED SOUL AND THOSE WHO WERE LUCKIER THAN HE
ONE NIGHT, BREAKING INTO THE ROOM OF A NEW PUG, DINKY RAN INTO DIFFULTIES!
GRR-RRR!
YOU ☆*!#! GET OUT! GET OUT!!
(GASP!) DINKY! IT'S YOU! YOU GOT A COSTUME ON! ... YOU WERE SCARING THE GUYS!
(GASP!)... IF THIS GETS OUT I'M SUNK! I GOTTA STOP HIM!

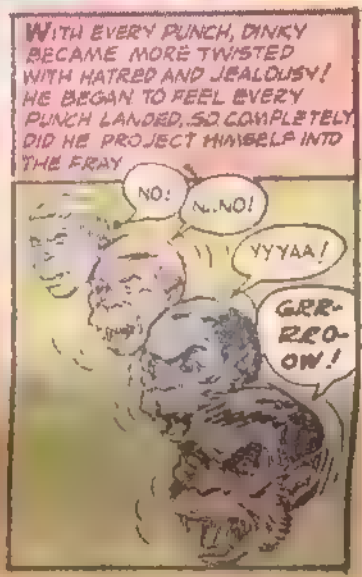

(GASP!)... IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM... A LOUSY CRIPPLE! BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT! IF NOT WITH GLOVES, THEN WITH CLAWS AN' TEETH!
EEEEAAA!!


AS DINKY SANK HIS FANGS INTO THE FIGHTER'S NECK, A SURGE OF EXULTANCY AND POWER MOVE THROUGH HIS BODY! HE BECAME AN ANIMAL, DRUNK WITH THE LUST TO KILL!
GR-RR!
RR-RRR!
GRR!!
AAARRGHH!

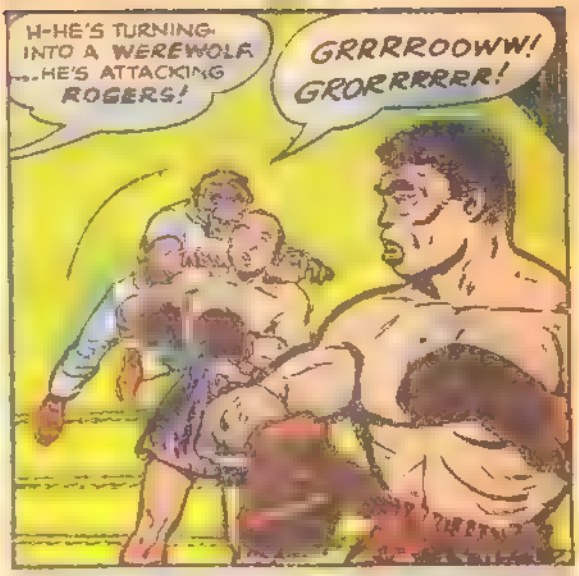

AS THE MUTILATED BODY UNDER HIM STIFFENED AND RELAXED, DINKY ROSE. NO LONGER DID DINKY LOOK LIKE HIMSELF!
GRRRO-!
WRRR-R!


BUT A STRANGER THING HAPPENED WHEN HE GOT BACK TO HIS ROOM! IN A TWINKLE OF THE EYE, THE MARKS OF THE BEAST DISAPPEARED!
I CAN CHANGE BACK AN FORTH WHEN-EVER I WANT! I DON'T NEED NO COSTUME NOW! ANYTIME I WANT TO BE A WEREWOLF, I CAN BE!

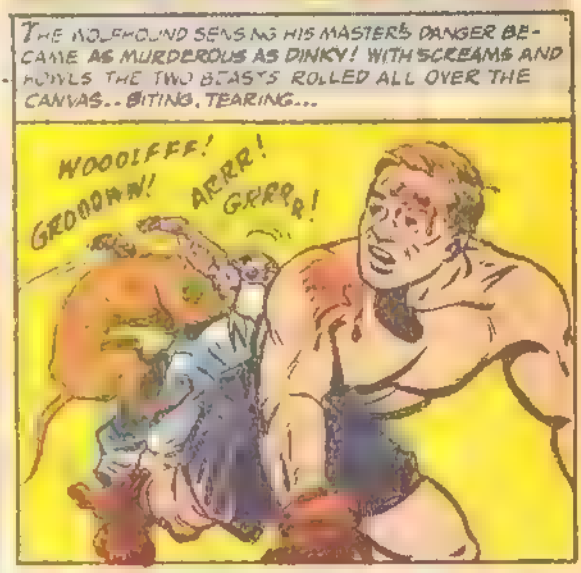

WILD ANIMALS WERE BLAMED FOR THAT MURDER AND THE CYCLE OF MURDERS THAT FOLLOWED. INSTINCTIVELY DINKY HATED A WINNER AND IT WAS THE WINNERS HE MARKED FOR THE WEREWOLF HIMSELF. UNTIL ONE NIGHT, ONE OF THE BOXERS DINKY WAS ATTENDING BEGAN TO SCORE AN UPSET....
AGAIN THE UNDERDOG LANDS... AGAIN AND AGAIN! THE CHAMPION STAGGERS! WHAT A BOXER THIS ROGERS IS!
BOXER? THAT SHOULD BE ME IN THERE SCORIN' THE UPSET! THE CRUMB! ROGER IS THERE BECAUSE HE AIN'T CRIPPLED LIKE ME!

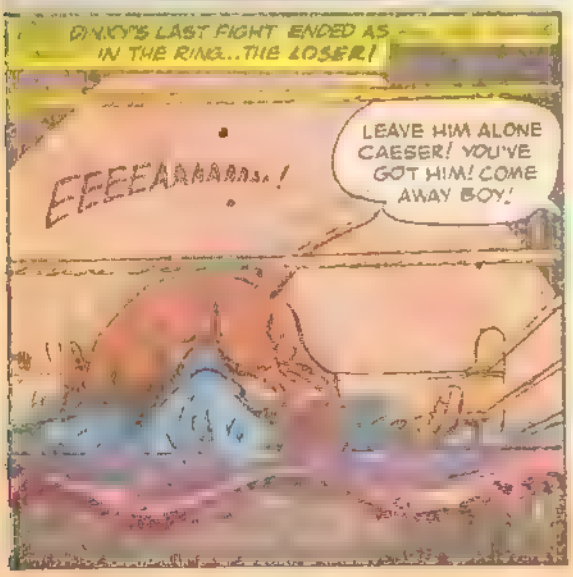

WITH EVERY PUNCH, DINKY BECAME MORE TWISTED WITH HATRED AND JEALOUSY! HE BEGAN TO FEEL EVERY PUNCH LANDED, SO COMPLETELY DID HE PROJECT HIMSELF INTO THE FRAY
NO!
N...NO!
YYYAA!
GRR-RROW!

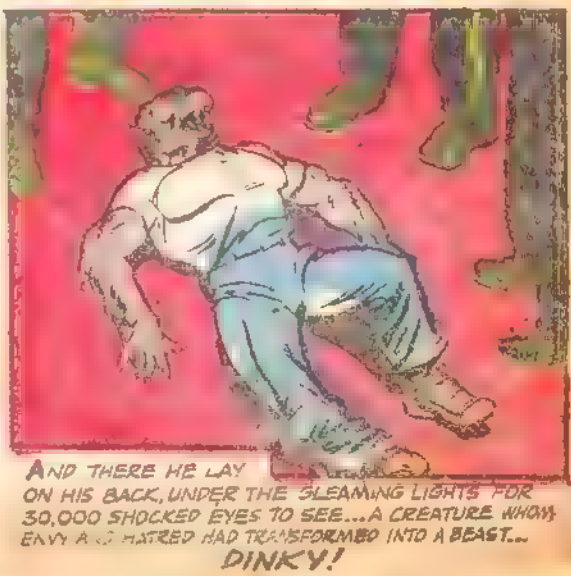
LOOK AT DINKY! LOOK AT HIS FACE!


H-HE'S TURNING INTO A WEREWOLF ...HE'S ATTACKING ROGERS!
GRRRROOWW! GRORRRRRR!

MRS. ROGERS LET THE WOLFHOUND GO! HE'S YOUR HUSBAND'S PET HIS MASCOT! HE'LL DEFEND BEN! IT'S HIS ONLY CHANCE!
YES! YES, CAESAR! GET HIM!


THE WOLFHOUND SENSING HIS MASTER'S DANGER BECAME AS MURDEROUS AS DINKY! WITH SCREAMS AND HOWLS THE TWO BEASTS ROLLED ALL OVER THE CANVAS...BITING, TEARING...
WOOOLFFF! GROOOWN! ARRR! GRRRR!


DINKY'S LAST FIGHT ENDED AS IN THE RING...THE LOSER!
EEEEAAAAAAs..!
LEAVE HIM ALONE CAESER! YOU'VE GOT HIM! COME AWAY BOY!


AND THERE HE LAY ON HIS BACK, UNDER THE GLEAMING LIGHTS FOR 30,000 SHOCKED EYES TO SEE...A CREATURE WHOM ENVY AND HATRED HAD TRANSFORMED INTO A BEAST... DINKY!

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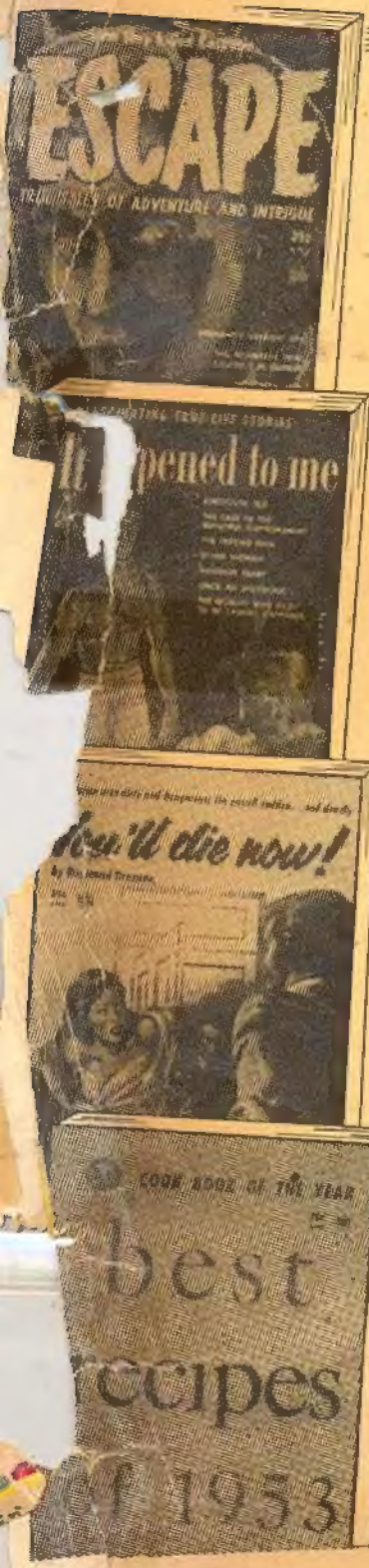

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